

THE CITIZEN

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BOER TARGETS BIGGER PICTURE

Jake Boer concluded a thumpingly determined season with a man-of-the-match performance to guide Gloucester to their first trophy for over two decades.

The South African scored Gloucester's only try to cap a magnificent personal season with the Zurich Championship trophy following another relentless display at the back of the Kingsholm scrum at Twickenham on Saturday.

Boer was at his resilient and dogged best – hitting rucks and mauls and making a host of crucial tackles as Gloucester out-dogged Bristol to cap their season with a trophy.

He will now take a well-earned summer off before returning to Kingsholm desperate to face the biggest clubs in Europe.

"We want to take this club to being one of the top clubs in Europe, but obviously there is a lot of work ahead, and these things do not come easily," he said.

"We have come away in quite a short time and now we have to go away and reflect on our season and see what we have achieved and what we have not achieved.

"As a team, what you are looking for is consistency and I think we will go back to the drawing board to see how we can be more consistent."

Boer's effort was matched by all of the Kingsholm forwards, particularly Rob Fidler and Patrice Collazo as Gloucester finally got the better of their west country rivals.

It was tough and uncompromising in the tight, but Gloucester's superior power, supplied by Boer and his men throughout the season, fired the Cherry and Whites to victory.

Meanwhile, former Gloucester centre Jason Little, Bristol's losing skipper on Saturday, has probably played his last game for the club.

The Shoguns skipper looks almost certain to take a year out before moving into coaching, probably at home in Australia where his wife is expecting their first child.

"I have played some 35 games this year, so it has been a long hard season," he said.

"We have some extraordinarily talented players in the Bristol squad and I would not want to stand in the way of their development.

"So now maybe is the right time for me to hang up my boots so we can develop these players."

Little left Gloucester at the end of last season after falling out with former director of rugby Philippe Saint-Andre and has enjoyed a fine season with Bristol.